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Commission on the Status of Women
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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters

Angola:*, draft decision**

Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[1] the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[2] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[3] the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,[4] the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS[5] and the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS,[6] the HIV- and AIDS-related goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[7] and the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the resolve of Member States to have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV, as well as the commitments on HIV and AIDS made at the 2005 World

* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

** On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Southern African Development Community.

[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[3] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[4] General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex.

[5] General Assembly resolution 60/262, annex.

[6] General Assembly resolution 65/277, annex.

[7] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

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Summit and the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[8]

Recalling all previous resolutions on this subject,

Reaffirming that prevention, treatment, care and support for people living with and affected by HIV are mutually reinforcing elements of an effective response that must be integrated into a comprehensive approach to combating the epidemic, and recognizing the need to ensure the respect, protection and enjoyment fulfilment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the context of HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support programmes,

Noting evidence of the interrelation between violence against women and girls and HIV, and in this regard recognizing the importance of continued support for the Secretary-General's ongoing campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women", including its regional components,

Recognizing the increased vulnerability to HIV infection of populations destabilized by armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, including refugees, internally displaced persons and, in particular, women and children, including in post-conflict and post-disaster situations,

Deeply concerned by the increased vulnerability to HIV infection faced by women and girls with disabilities, resulting from, inter alia, legal and economic inequalities, gender-based violence, including sexual violence, discrimination and violations of their rights,

Deeply concerned also that there are women and girls living with HIV who would like to space or limit pregnancy but are currently not using an effective method of contraception owing to limited access to voluntary family planning services and to a broad range of contraceptive commodities,

Expressing concern that, while there has been progress in reducing poverty, this progress has been uneven and the number of people living in poverty continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority of the most affected groups, especially in the least developed countries, and stressing that the ongoing adverse impact of the world financial and economic crisis, the volatile food and energy prices, food insecurity and the challenges posed by climate change, as well as the lack of results so far in the multilateral trade negotiations, have negative implications for social development which is a key component in the fight against HIV and AIDS,

Deeply concerned that the global HIV and AIDS epidemic disproportionately affects women and girls and increases gender inequalities, and that in this regard HIV is the leading cause of death worldwide among women of reproductive age (15-44), and that young women (aged 15-24 years) are 1.6 times more likely than young men to be HIV-positive, that women and girls bear the disproportionate burden of caring for and supporting people living with and affected by HIV and that they become more vulnerable to poverty as a result of the epidemic,

Concerned that the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV is increased by gender inequality, such as their unequal legal, economic and social status, including poverty, as well as other cultural and physiological factors, violence against women

[8] See General Assembly resolution 65/1.

and girls and adolescents, child and forced marriages, premature and early sexual relations, commercial sexual exploitation and female genital mutilation,

Concerned also that HIV infection rates are higher among young people, especially young and married women, who do not finish primary school,

Concerned further that women and girls have different and unequal access to and use of health resources for the prevention of HIV infection and treatment, care and support for people living with or affected by HIV and that there is limited engagement of women and girls in the planning and monitoring of programmes to ensure that their needs are understood and met,

Recognizing that it is critical for those who have been victims of sexual violence to access specialized care, including counselling and post-exposure prophylaxis to reduce the risk of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections,

Noting with deep concern that despite significant progress made in addressing the HIV and AIDS epidemic, the key targets and goals of the 2001 and 2006 Declarations on HIV/AIDS, including those related to women and girls which were set to be achieved by 2010, remain unmet,

Expressing deep concern that funding devoted to HIV and AIDS responses is still not commensurate with the magnitude of the epidemic either nationally or internationally, and that the global crisis continues to have a negative impact on the HIV and AIDS response at all levels, as reflected, inter alia, by the fact that for the first time, in 2010, international assistance has decreased,

Stressing that the HIV and AIDS epidemic, with its devastating scale and impact on women and girls, is often a consequence and a cause of poverty and requires urgent action across all internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in all fields and at all levels and recognizing in turn that a gender-responsive approach to HIV can act as a catalyst towards achieving many of these goals,

Stressing also that gender equality and the political, social and economic empowerment of women and girls are fundamental elements in the reduction of their vulnerability to HIV and are essential to reversing the epidemic,

Expressing concern that country-level interventions in national planning, budgeting and accountability mechanisms for HIV responses that target women and girls are limited in scale,

1. *Reaffirms* the need for Governments, supported by the relevant actors, including civil society and the private sector, to intensify national efforts and international cooperation in the full and effective implementation of the commitments contained in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,[4] the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS[5] and the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS,[6] the Beijing Platform for Action[9] and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;[3]

[9] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

2. *Also reaffirms* the commitment to achieve universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment, care and support programmes, and the resolve to have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV, and stresses the urgency of significantly scaling up efforts towards meeting these goals, including by addressing factors that hinder women's access to such programmes;

3. *Further reaffirms* the commitment to achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015, as set out in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and in Millennium Development Goal 5, and in other agreements and instruments on this key issue, which encompasses integrating this goal into strategies to attain internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[7] aimed at reducing maternal mortality, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality, combating HIV and AIDS and eradicating poverty;

4. *Stresses* the need to significantly increase and coordinate political and financial commitment to addressing gender equality and responding to the specific needs of women and girls, including rural women and girls and those living with and/or affected by HIV, in national HIV and AIDS responses, and urges Governments to effectively mainstream gender equality in their national policies, strategies and budgets and reflect therein the gender dimension of the epidemic, in line with the time-bound goals of the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS, as well as the goals of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and the Millennium Development Goals;

5. *Also stresses* the need to develop and adopt effective measuring mechanisms to monitor and track international and national resources allocated to ensure gender equality within HIV and AIDS responses;

6. *Emphasizes* the need to strengthen policy, programme linkages and coordination between HIV and AIDS and sexual and reproductive health, and their inclusion in national development plans, including, poverty reduction strategies and sector-wide approaches, where they exist, as a necessary strategy for fighting the HIV and AIDS epidemic and mitigating its impact on the population, and achieving more relevant and cost-effective interventions with greater impact;

7. *Urges* Governments to take all necessary measures to create an enabling environment for the empowerment of women and girls, to strengthen their economic independence and their right to property and inheritance, and to protect and promote their full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to enable them to protect themselves from HIV infection and to mitigate the impact of the epidemic;

8. *Reaffirms* the need for Governments, civil society, donors and others responding to the HIV and AIDS epidemic to address:

(a) Challenges faced by women and girls associated with the fact that they are disproportionately affected by the epidemic, more easily infected than men and boys, and face the disproportionate burden of caregiving responsibilities;

(b) Challenges faced by the women and girls who find themselves having to provide care and/or economic support for those living with or affected by HIV,

including by providing resources and facilities, ensuring the balanced sharing of the provision of care by both men and women, and boys and girls, and addressing situations faced by girls who were forced to drop out of school owing to caregiving responsibilities;

(c) Challenges faced by women and girls in emergency situation and humanitarian responses, including vulnerability to HIV;

(d) Challenges faced by older women, including stigma and discrimination, sexual violence and lack of resources, in accessing HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, as well as in caring for people living with or affected by HIV, including orphaned and other vulnerable children and children affected or orphaned by AIDS;

(e) Challenges of child-headed households, in particular those headed by girls;

(f) Increased vulnerability to HIV faced by women and girls living with disabilities, by ensuring their equal access to prevention, treatment, care and support, as an integral part of their HIV and AIDS response;

(g) The situation faced by children and young persons, particularly girls and young women, who in the context of HIV may be subjected to the worst forms of child labour or trafficked as a result of death or illness of family members or caregivers, and to protect these children from gender-based violence, including sexual abuse and sexual exploitation;

9. *Urges* Governments to strengthen initiatives that would increase the capacities of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from HIV infection, principally through the provision of health care and health services, including for sexual and reproductive health, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS, and that integrate HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support and include voluntary counselling and testing, including through prevention education that promotes gender equality within a culturally and gender-sensitive framework;

10. *Also urges* Governments to ensure, in the context of prevention programmes for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, accessible and affordable procurement of safe and effective prevention commodities, in particular male and female condoms, and to also ensure that their supply is adequate and secure;

11. *Further urges* Governments to strengthen and implement legal, policy, administrative and other measures for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful traditional and customary practices, female genital mutilation, domestic violence, abuse, early marriage, child and forced marriage, rape, including marital rape, and other forms of sexual violence and coerced sexual activity, battering and trafficking in women and girls, and to ensure that violence against women and HIV are addressed as an integral part of the national HIV and AIDS response;

12. *Urges* States to take special measures for the protection of women and girls affected by armed conflicts and, in particular, to protect them from sexually transmitted diseases, such as HIV and AIDS, gender-based violence, including rape and sexual abuse, and sexual exploitation, torture, abduction and forced labour,

paying special attention to refugee and displaced women and girls, and to take into account the special needs of women and girls affected by armed conflict in the delivery of humanitarian assistance and disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation assistance and reintegration processes;

13. *Urges* Governments, where they have not yet done so, to institute and ensure the enforcement of laws to protect women and girls from early marriage, child and forced marriage and marital rape;

14. *Also urges* Governments to prioritize and expand access to treatment for all people in all settings, in a progressive and sustainable manner, and in so doing to include the prevention and treatment of opportunistic infections and other HIV-related diseases and the effective use of and adherence to antiretroviral medication, including through access to clinical and laboratory testing and post-exposure prophylaxis, while promoting sexual and reproductive health, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;[1]

15. *Further urges* Governments to promote access to affordable, high-quality, safe and effective drugs, and HIV and maternal health-related pharmaceutical products for women and girls and to collect, analyse and report quantitative and qualitative data on treatment, disaggregated by age, sex, geographical location, marital status and continuity of care;

16. *Reaffirms* the commitment of Governments to use, to the full, existing flexibilities under the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights[10] specifically geared to promoting access to and trade of medicines so as to increase access to treatment where applicable, as undertaken in the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS;

17. *Requests* Governments to promote and provide equal and equitable access for all persons to social services related to health care, including education, clean water and safe sanitation, nutrition, food security and health, education programmes and social protection schemes, especially for women and girls living with or affected by HIV, and to address the factors that hinder women's use of such services;

18. *Calls upon* Governments to intensify efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls in relation to HIV and AIDS, including the negative stereotypes associated with them, their stigmatization, discriminatory attitudes against them and gender inequalities, and to encourage the active involvement of men and boys in this regard;

19. *Reaffirms* the pledge of Governments to eliminate gender-based abuse and violence against women and girls and, in this regard, to ensure that women have the right to exercise control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including their sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence, as stipulated in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

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[10] See *Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994* (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

20. *Calls upon* all Governments and the international donor community to integrate a gender mainstreaming approach towards men and women in all matters of international assistance and cooperation and to take measures to ensure that resources commensurate with the impact of HIV and AIDS on women and girls are made available, in particular in funding provided to national HIV and AIDS programmes designed to ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls in the context of the epidemic, to promote economic opportunities for women, including opportunities to diminish their financial vulnerability and their risk of exposure to HIV, and to achieve the gender-equality goals set out, inter alia, in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, and the 2006 and 2011 Political Declarations on HIV and AIDS;

21. *Calls upon* Governments to integrate HIV prevention, voluntary counselling and testing, antiretroviral treatment and elimination of mother-to-child transmission into other health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, which includes family planning, maternal and child health, and tuberculosis, as well as the provision of services for the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections in the mother-to-child transmission services for pregnant women living with HIV;

22. *Welcomes* the commitment to work towards the target of eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV by 2015 and substantially reducing AIDS-related maternal deaths, and calls upon the international community for accelerated efforts in this regard;

23. *Recognizes* the importance of strengthening health systems, in particular primary health care, and the need to integrate the HIV response into it, in order to promote access of women and girls to HIV- and AIDS-related services, and further recognizes the need to address the challenges faced by developing countries in this regard;

24. *Acknowledges* that UN-Women, a new stakeholder, can play an important role in global efforts to combat HIV by promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, which are fundamental for reducing the vulnerability of women to HIV;

25. *Requests* the Secretariat and co-sponsors of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, UN-Women and other United Nations organizations responding to the HIV and AIDS epidemic, as well as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, to continue to ensure that programmes and policies for addressing the specific needs of women and girls are developed and adequately resourced;

26. *Calls upon* Member States to accelerate action on women, girls, gender equality and HIV, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, in accordance with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS;

27. *Recommends* the development of the use of the harmonized data on women and girls, and the development and refinement of relevant indicators as part of the process to update the core indicators on HIV and AIDS for the reporting system for the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, so as to help measure women's and girls' inequalities in the context of HIV;

28. *Encourages* the United Nations system to continue to support national monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in the context of the "three ones" principles, to enable the production and dissemination of comprehensive and timely information on the impact of the epidemic on women and girls, including through the collection of data disaggregated by sex, age and marital status, and to raise awareness about the need to address the critical intersection between gender inequality and HIV and AIDS;

29. *Encourages* Member States to work in partnership with the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and its partners, so as to mobilize and support a wide range of national actors, including women's groups and networks of women living with HIV, in order to ensure that national HIV and AIDS programmes are better able to respond to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women, girls and adolescents;

30. *Notes* the national and international initiatives contributing to reducing maternal and child mortality, and urges Governments to rapidly scale up access to HIV prevention and treatment programmes designed to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV and improve maternal health, including by encouraging men to participate with women and girls in such programmes and by addressing barriers faced by women and girls in accessing HIV- and AIDS-related services, and to provide sustained treatment and care for the mother after pregnancy, including care and support for the family;

31. *Welcomes* all the relevant International Labour Organization Recommendations concerning HIV and AIDS which seek, inter alia, to protect working women against HIV infection and mitigate its impact for those living with or affected by HIV, including through the provision of information on HIV and AIDS in the workplace, through employment programmes and services and in vocational training;

32. *Encourages* the design and implementation of programmes, including awareness-raising programmes, to encourage and enable men, including young men, to adopt safe, non-coercive and responsible sexual and reproductive behaviour and to use effective methods to prevent the transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections to women and girls;

33. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring that young men and women have access to information and education, including peer education and youth-specific HIV education, sex education and health care, social and other educational services necessary for changing risky sexual and other behaviours, so as to enable them to develop the life skills required to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection and reproductive ill health, in full partnership with young persons, parents, families, educators, employers' and workers' organizations and health-care providers;

34. *Calls for* enhanced efforts by all relevant actors to mainstream gender equality between women and men in the development of HIV and AIDS programmes and policies and in the training of personnel involved in implementing such programmes, including by focusing on the role of men and boys as partners for gender equality in addressing HIV and AIDS;

35. *Encourages* Governments and all other relevant actors to promote funding, both domestically and externally, and to support and expedite action-oriented research leading to affordable, safe and effective methods controlled by

43. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit biennially a report to the Commission on the Status of Women starting from its fifty-eighth session, on the situation of women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS, with an emphasis on accelerated actions taken in regard to women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS, in accordance with the principles and goals contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the 2001, 2006 and 2011 Political Declarations on HIV and AIDS and the present resolution, using information provided by Member States, and the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, with a view to assessing the impact of the implementation of the present resolution on the well-being of women and the girl child.